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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An object is temporarily marked with a coating composition comprising a short-lived radioisotope for detection by a gamma radiation counter. The short-lived radioisotope is generated at the marking device from a longer-lived isotope.

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Method, Device and System for the Temporary Marking of ~~Objects~~
an Object with a Short-Lived Radioactive Isotope

Field of invention

The invention is in the field of marking and identifying objects. It is in particular about a method, a device and a system for applying an invisible mark which is lasting and detectable only during a determined time.

State of the art

The marking of objects for identification and authentication purposes is known in the art, and a large variety of physical effects have been exploited to this aim, such as the marking of documents or goods with special inks, containing e.g. one or several UV-luminescent compounds. Such markings remain invisible to the unaided eye and can only be evidenced by irradiation with appropriate UV-light. The said kind of marking has also the property of being permanent, lasting over the whole life of the correspondingly marked banknote, passport, credit card, branded good, etc..

In some cases, a temporary marking of documents or goods is required, e.g. for distinction purposes in a process chain, wherein a marking, indicating a distinction, is applied to determined objects in a first part of the process, and an action, corresponding to the said distinction, is performed on the marked objects in a second part of the process, whereby the said second part of the process is performed at a later point in time at another location. The marking, having the only aim to indicate that the said action is to be performed on the marked